



**Lancashire Association of Local Councils,**  
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**Minutes** of the 77th Annual General Meeting held via Zoom Saturday 20th November 2021 at 10a.m.

**PRESENT**

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Rt Hon Sir Robert Atkins | President     |
| Cllr D Cranshaw          | Chairman      |
| Cllr P Orme              | Vice Chairman |
| Mr B Anderson            | Treasurer     |

and 21 Members from 17 Parish and Town Councils.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

|              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs M Gelder | Chief Executive Officer |
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**APOLOGIES**

There were 5 apologies.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, again held via zoom. He is himself involved in Climate change initiatives in Wyre and was pleased to introduce Julie Adshead, an elected member on Rossendale Borough Council and is Climate Champion.

**2. CLIMATE CHANGE**

Cllr Adshead commented that this is a timely presentation, coming just after the COP26 meeting in Glasgow. We must recognise the issue, take action and mobilise communities. What individuals do will impact the increase in the temperature and equally will reduce the rate of increase. Without action cities will disappear under water and people will be displaced. What to do – stop using fossil fuels. Global changes are necessary. There must be an increase in power from alternative fuels. Everyone can take action – Regionally, Cities, Boroughs, parishes etc. Rossendale has a 10year plan which targets key actions. Parish and town councils can adopt this idea and improve cycleways, provide electronic charging, plant trees. Communities need to be involved. Individuals can be encouraged to walk and cycle and consider less use of vehicles for short journeys. Members were encouraged to visit [carbonfootprint.com](http://carbonfootprint.com) for further information. Quick wins can be achieved immediately.

It was noted that Wyre are acting with LCC on highways.,

Realistically it was noted that councils are waiting for others to lead. It was felt that face to face is the best way to involve individuals – visits to schools and organisations for example.

It was felt that false information would need to be tackled. Planners could have a positive effect by requiring climate friendly building e.g. solar panels. Neighbourhood Plans could be advantageous in planning for the future.

Regarding transport, MP's should be encouraged to consider subsidies appropriate to areas rather than distributed in equal amounts.

It was noted that Lancashire is fortunate in having ground source heat, although care should be taken not to disturb eco systems.

The President reminded councils that it is important to become involved and to respond to the issues. He thanked Cllr Adshead for her presentation, which has emphasised the importance of the situation and has indicated what individuals can do.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM**

The Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting were agreed.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. ANNUAL REPORT, ACCOUNTS 2020/21 AND BUDGET 2022/23**

The report having been previously circulated, was adopted. Cllr Cranshaw has outlined the change in structure of the Association in his annual report.

The Treasurer referred to the annual accounts, previously issued to all member councils and printed in the annual report. The deficit due to the withdrawal of the Service Level Agreement is expected to be approx. £12,500. Otherwise, there would have been a positive outcome of approx. £1,100.

The budget was in preparation before the changes to the Association were absolutely clear and is based on an electorate of 525,000. Income should be sufficient to cover the wages of 2 part-time employees working from home, sundry expenses and includes working from home expenses and equipment. Subscriptions will need to raise approx. £39,000.

It was noted that Mr Anderson has acted as Treasurer since 2001 and he has taken the decision not to seek election after the current year. It was confirmed that the budget for 22/23 will balance. Reserves will be used as necessary. The accountants have also confirmed that they will not seek re-election after the current year as the Association's structure will become more complicated with home working taking place.

Thanks should be recorded for the Treasurer's outstanding work for the Association, particularly during the difficult past 12 months. Mr Anderson will be missed. The President endorsed these comments.

Thanks were also extended to the chairman for his work during this difficult year. Having completed his three-year term, a new chairman will be elected at the next executive meeting.

The President also thanked the Chief Executive Officer for her support over the years. It was agreed that the next Executive meeting will take place in January.

### **6. OFFICERS AND AUDITORS**

It was resolved to confirm the following en bloc;

**President** – The Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Atkins.

**Vice Presidents** – Cllr Colin Peacock, Cllr Eunice Houghton, Cllr Alan Neal, Cllr Phil Orme.

**Treasurer** – Mr Brian Anderson

**Accountants** – John Potter and Harrison

### **7. COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Representatives were noted. Members were reminded that contact details should be kept up to date.

### **8. MOTIONS**

#### **1. Bretherton Parish Council**

That LALC ask Lancashire County Council to update the agreement with parish and town councils and to consider the amount of finance available for the upkeep of Public Rights of Way, given that many

reports have identified the benefits of fresh air and exercise in maintaining the well-being of individuals and communities

The motion was agreed.

## **2. Whitworth TC**

Whitworth Town Council requests that LALC seeks to support both NALC and Central Government to request that all owners and operators of Privately Owned and Managed Gymnasias be required to be registered with their Relevant Local Licensing Authorities under the Licensing Act of 2003.

The motion was agreed

## **9. OPEN FORUM**

Cllr Peacock requested the legislation details regarding the Whitworth motion in order to pass the details to the National Association's Policy Committee.

It was noted that NALC subscriptions will increase by 1%.

NALC was not successful in lobbying the government to allow the continuance of virtual meetings for Parish/Town councils.

It was suggested that LALC should be considering its responsibilities in dealing with climate issues and using area committees to promote them.

Neighbourhood plans should be considered as a means of incorporating climate issues.

## **10. CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and for the informed discussions. He wished everyone a Happy Christmas.