



MERSEYSIDE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14th June 2023

Present

Members representing areas:

Knowsley	Cllr A Flute (Halewood TC)
	Cllr B Arnold (Halewood TC)
	Cllr G McGann (Cronton PC)
Sefton	Cllr G Harris (Aintree PC)
	Cllr J Desmond (Maghull TC)
St. Helens	Cllr D Hawley (Bold PC)

Officers & guests in attendance

MALC Secretary	Gerry Allen
Town Clerk, Whiston TC	Sandra Myers

1. Welcome and Introductions

In the absence of a formal Chairperson of MALC, the MALC Secretary welcomed all in attendance to the meeting.

2. Appointment of MALC Chairperson for 2023/24

The MALC Secretary requested nominations for the role of Chairperson for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

It was **moved** by Cllr D Hawley, **seconded** by Cllr A Flute and all agreed,

RESOLVED: Unanimously

That **Cllr G Harris** is hereby elected as Chairperson of MALC for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

****Cllr G Harris took on the chairing role for the meeting at this point****

The Chairperson thanked members in attendance for their support and confidence in him. He looked forward to a busy and productive year and noted the positive turnout of members at the meeting and those taking the time to send apologies.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from **Cllr L O’Keeffe** (Knowsley TC, Knowsley), **Cllr K Taylor** (Whiston TC, Knowsley) and **Cllr G Ward** (Rainford PC, St. Helens)

4. Minutes

There were no previous minutes for approval.

5. Appointment of Officers for 2023/24

The Chairperson advised members that a Deputy-Chairperson of MALC for 2023/24 should be elected. He invited nominations.

It was **moved** by Cllr B Arnold, **seconded** by Cllr J Desmond and all agreed,

RESOLVED: Unanimously

That **Cllr A Flute** is hereby elected as Deputy-Chairperson of MALC for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

The role of Area Secretary was not considered at the meeting. G Allen to continue in this role, and the matter should be considered at the next quarterly meeting of MALC

6. MALC Attendance at Regional/National Events

The Area Secretary requested the comments and views of members regarding MALC representation at regional and national events, in particular meetings or events of LALC. The Chairperson of MALC will, as a matter of course, be required to attend the Annual Meeting of LALC.

The Chairperson requested the Area Secretary look into the matter of MALC participation at the NALC National Conference, in particular the AGM. The Area Secretary will subsequently report back on this matter to the Chairperson.

7. Area Updates

With the formal part of the meeting concluded, the Chairperson invited members to share any updates of relevance for the meeting.

G Allen advised that a previous MALC action to invite the Transport Lead for the Metro Mayor's office was now on-hold. The Lead has been Cllr Liam Robinson who was now Leader of Liverpool City Council.

Cllr G Harris asked members and clerks for their views on the recording of 'abstentions' in formal council meetings following a request under standing orders for a recorded vote, bearing in mind that an abstention could never be deemed to be a vote for or against.

The consensus was that individual standing orders should be followed to the letter, so if a council's standing orders required:

- a) votes for, against and abstentions must be recorded, then that should be followed
- b) votes for and against can only be recorded, then that too should be followed without, therefore, the recording of abstentions.

Cllr G McGann discussed traffic challenges in Cronton and the challenges of dealing with neighbouring local authorities when trying to resolve the matter.

Cllr A Flute noted developments in the borough of Knowsley, noting especially the award of a government 'Levelling Up' bid to the township of Halewood.

Cllr D Hawley noted developments in St. Helens.

Cllr J Desmond noted developments in Maghull, focussing on the impact of political changes at the council after the elections of May 2023.

8. Next Meetings

The Area Secretary asked members for their preference for the regularity of meetings and whether we wish to opt for in-person, remote or hybrid meetings. After a short discussion it was proposed to hold meetings quarterly and in-person. The Area Secretary will subsequently consult with the Chairperson to set dates for the year. Cllr G McGann offered the offices of Cronton Parish Council as venue for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 27 September** (Cronton)

The meeting concluded at 6.53pm