

**Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting of the
Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils**

**Held at Moulton Community Centre, Moulton, Northampton on
Saturday 6 October 2018**

Item																											
<p>1. Welcome & housekeeping.</p> <p>Northants CALC Deputy CEO, Lesley Sambrook Smith opened the meeting and welcomed delegates. There were 135 attendees in total, including 115 councillors and clerks representing over seventy member councils.</p>																											
<p>2. Election of Honorary Officers of the Association for the year 2018/2019.</p> <p>a) Appointment of a new President deferred due to Local Government Reorganisation.</p> <p>The following honorary offers were nominated and duly elected:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">b) Vice Presidents</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Cllr Catherine Lomax Mr Jeffrey Greenwell Mr Gordon Shorley Mrs Gwen Radcliffe</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">c) Auditor</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Kate Brown Accountants</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	b) Vice Presidents	Cllr Catherine Lomax Mr Jeffrey Greenwell Mr Gordon Shorley Mrs Gwen Radcliffe	c) Auditor	Kate Brown Accountants																							
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<p>3. To receive the recommendations of the Appointments Panel on persons to be appointed to the board of directors for 2018/19.</p> <p>The Appointments Panel recommended the following for appointment at the AGM:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="padding: 5px;">No.</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Name</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Qualifying Council</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">1.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Peter Allen</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Towcester Town Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">2.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Fiona Baker</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Brackley Town Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">3.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Sara Homer</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Wootton Parish Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">4.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Lynn Lavender</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Litchborough Parish Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">5.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Richard Lewis</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Rushden Town Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">6.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Mike Scott</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Great Addington Parish Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">7.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Lynne Taylor</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Daventry Town Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">8.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Gill Wells</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">West Haddon Parish Council</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>RESOLVED: That the eight candidates be appointed en bloc as directors for the year 2018/19.</p>	No.	Name	Qualifying Council	1.	Peter Allen	Towcester Town Council	2.	Fiona Baker	Brackley Town Council	3.	Sara Homer	Wootton Parish Council	4.	Lynn Lavender	Litchborough Parish Council	5.	Richard Lewis	Rushden Town Council	6.	Mike Scott	Great Addington Parish Council	7.	Lynne Taylor	Daventry Town Council	8.	Gill Wells	West Haddon Parish Council
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<p>4. Confirmation of the minutes of the 70th AGM held on 7 October 2017.</p> <p>The minutes were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>																											
<p>5. To receive the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2018 including the Annual Statement of Accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31 March 2018.</p> <p>Northants CALC Vice Chairman, Richard Lewis, presented the Annual Report and Accounts. Danny</p>																											

Moody answered a question from the floor on audit fees.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report & Accounts be received and noted.

6. To determine subscription levels for the year 2019/2020.

The board of directors recommended that the per council element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2019 and ending 31 March 2020 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2018 – 2.3%) from £154.82 to £158.38 and that the per elector element of the Northants CALC membership fee be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2018 – 2.3%) from 23.23 pence to 23.76 pence.

Larger councils (10,000 – 30,000 electorate) are charged a fixed fee for membership of Northants CALC. The board of directors recommended the fixed fee per council for the year starting 1 April 2019 and ending 31 March 2020 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2018 – 2.3%) from £2,477.17 per council to £2,534.14 per council. The total fee payable will therefore be (£2,534.14 + NALC Affiliation fee). The equivalent fee for super councils (30,000 + electors) is increased from £4,500 to £4,603.50.

The board of directors recommended that Parish Meetings with less than 100 electors AND no precept are offered affiliate membership for 2019/20 free of charge.

The maximum fee that any council or parish meeting pays is capped at £1 per elector.

RESOLVED: That the board's recommendations be approved.

7. To consider motions put by member councils.

DM reported that one motion had been received from Barby & Onley Parish Council regarding Class Q permitted development. The motion is in line with existing policy so will be forwarded to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

RESOLVED: To note the update.

8. Keynote Address - Localism Rebooted: Power Partnerships and the Need for Change

Nick Plumb, Policy Officer at Locality spoke about Locality's People Power report and that parish and town councils were the "*first responders*" of local government, closest to the people they serve. He called for "*a fundamental rethink of how people, power and politics intercept*" and noted that "*when communities are done to it reinforces the unhelpful paternalistic relationship between people and politics*" rather than encouraging people and communities to be self-reliant and self-supporting. Nick described the work of Locality's Commission on the Future of Localism, which was set up in 2017 and led to the People Power report. The Commission heard from community representatives across the country who feel frustrated about the difficulty in influencing decisions that affect their area. Nick said, "*We talk about co-design and co-production as buzzwords, but participatory democracy needs to be made real*". A lively question and answer session followed the presentation with subjects ranging from the most effective governance structure for principal authorities, to the need to attract new people from diverse backgrounds into the parish and town council sector and the role of technology in making councils more engaging.

9. Keynote Address – Challenges & Opportunities for Local Councils

Alistair Jones, Associate Professor at the Local Governance Research Unit (LGRU) at De Montfort University provided an entertaining overview of the LGRU's Councillor Commission, which conducted a year-long independent review of the role and work of the councillor (of all tiers) and of the contribution made by councillors to the governance of their communities and the country. Alistair contended that the parish and town council sector is still trying to shake off the Vicar of Dibley image. He said "*The perception is that's what parish and town councils are like; idiots and busybodies. But you are proper LOCAL government. The most important thing is your proximity to the community.*" The report of the Councillor Commission - *The Voice of the Councillor* – makes twenty recommendations for how local government can be strengthened, including calling for a national independent inquiry to be undertaken by the National Association of Local Councils to fully understand the relationship between parish and town councils and principal authorities with the aim of identifying best practice and producing a national framework for parish-principal relationships. Alistair identified several areas that are holding parish and town councils back, such as the current legal power to create new councils being vested in district councils. "*Why should borough and district councils be in charge and have the final say on whether or*

not a new parish or town council should be created?", he challenged. The Commission calls for the power of principal councils under the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct Community Governance Reviews to be abolished so that communities themselves can decide how they are governed. The questions following the presentation highlighted the frequent frustrations that parish and town council have of not being able to influence decisions locally, with several questioners describing situations where local views were overturned by the principal councils or by the Secretary of State. Alistair recognised the frustration and said there were no easy answers but that *"the problem will persist until the system [of local government] is changed"*. Making reference to Local Government Reorganisation in Northamptonshire, Alistair said *"There is a mania for going for bigger units of local government, whereas local government should be all about being connected to localities and communities"* adding *"it is essential that every community has a parish or town council representing it"*.

10. Presentations: CiLCA & Council of the Year

The AGM recognised those clerks that had achieved the sector qualification, the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) since the last AGM:

Gill Wells	West Haddon and Hackleton Parish Councils
Jo Moore	Loddington Parish Council
Jayne Bunting	Boughton Parish Council
Mike Billingham	Great Houghton Parish Council
Emma Gibson	Spratton Parish Council
Becky Jones	Wilbarston Parish Council
Claire Tilley	Cranford Parish Council

Danny Moody then read out the commendation for the Northamptonshire Council of the Year Award, which went to Glapthorn Parish Council in recognition of the council's project to upgrade its street lighting to modern and energy efficient LED and the completion of its Neighbourhood Plan with 88% of votes cast in favour of adopting the plan with an impressive 61% turnout.

The prize draw was won by Cllr Sam Cribb from Thrapston Town Council. The prize of £300 in vouchers and a bottle of champagne was generously donated by Wicksteed Playgrounds and was presented to Cllr Cribb by Wicksteed Areas Sales Manager, Jodie Midlane.

11. Close.

Jeffrey Greenwell thanked the sponsors and exhibitors for their support, Anne Kirkland and her team for all the practical arrangements, Moulton Parish Council for hosting and to the two guest speakers for their entertaining talks. Jeffrey thanked all the delegates for their attendance and participation, and Danny Moody for his good work on the day and throughout the year on behalf of councils in Northamptonshire.

The meeting closed at 1:09 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____