

**Minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the  
Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils**

**Held at Wootton Hall, Northampton on  
Saturday 8 October 2016**

**Item**

**1. Welcome & housekeeping.**

Danny Moody (Chief Executive) thanked everyone for a record turnout and welcomed all delegates and speakers.

In attendance were one hundred and thirty delegates with seventy six member parish and town councils and parish meetings in Northamptonshire represented.

**2. Election of Honorary Officers of the Association for the year 2016/2017.**

The following were nominated and duly elected:

a) President	Dr Paul Blantern
b) Vice Presidents	Cllr Catherine Lomax Mr Jeffrey Greenwell Mr Gordon Shorley Mrs Gwen Radcliffe
c) Auditor	Kate Brown Accountants

**3. To receive the recommendations of the Appointments Panel on persons to be appointed to the board of directors for 2016/17.**

The Appointments Panel recommended the following for appointment at the AGM:

No.	Name	Qualifying Council
1.	Peter Allen	Towcester Town Council
2.	Peter Byng	Silverstone Parish Council
3.	Sara Homer	Wootton Parish Council
4.	Lynn Lavender	Duston Parish Council
5.	Richard Lewis	Rushden Town Council
6.	Mike Scott	Great Addington Parish Council
7.	Lynne Taylor	Daventry Town Council
8.	Vacancy	-

**RESOLVED:** That the seven candidates be appointed en bloc as directors for the year 2016/17.

DM drew delegates' attention to the vacancy left by the recent resignation of Linda Carter and encouraged all to consider the opportunity.

#### 4. Vice President's Address.

In the absence of the President, Vice President Jeffrey Greenwell gave the address. He gave delegates an overview of the debate that has been going on for several years nationally regarding who the members of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) are; is it CALCs, parish councils or both? It is a thorny issue and Jeffrey explained that a motion regarding membership would be debated at the NALC AGM on 20 October 2016 and that the outcome will be discussed further with member councils in Northamptonshire. Next Jeffrey alerted delegates to the government's proposal to introduce precept referendum principles, or capping, to parish councils, whereby if they wish to raise their precept by more than 2% a referendum supporting that would be required. Clearly this would make no sense to parish councils and Jeffrey proposed from the chair that "This AGM reminds Her Majesty's Government of its commitment to localism and urges the government not to pursue a proposal to introduce capping of local councils". Not unsurprisingly the motion was carried nem. con. Finally Jeffrey gave thanks to Richard Lewis, chairman of Northants CALC, who is stepping down from the chair at the end of his three year term. Richard has steered the Northants CALC ship through another busy period and will hand on to the next chairman at the board's annual meeting in November.

#### 5. Confirmation of the minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 17 October 2015.

The minutes were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

#### 6. To receive the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2016 including the Annual Statement of Accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31 March 2016.

Richard Lewis (Chairman) presented the Annual Report and Accounts and thanked the directors, staff, vice presidents and president for their support during the year. In answering a question from the floor he noted that turnover was up on the previous year and that the Association hoped to employ a project officer to work on the New Councils Project.

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

#### 7. To determine subscription levels for the year 2017/2018.

The board of directors recommended that the per council element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2017 and ending 31 March 2018 be increased by inflation (CPI August 2016 – 0.6%) from £150.00 to £150.90 and that the per elector element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2017 and ending 31 March 2018 be increased by inflation (CPI August 2016 – 0.6%) from 22.50 pence to 22.64 pence.

**RESOLVED:** That the board's recommendation be approved.

#### 8. To consider motions put by member councils.

- a) To provide an update on motions passed at the 2015 AGM

DM reported that the motion passed at the 2015 AGM regarding the removal of Class M permitted development from the change of use classes had been debated by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and further case study information had been supplied. The motion requiring statutory undertakers to provide more notice of street works to parish councils had now been adopted by NALC as national policy and government would be lobbied for changes to the relevant Code of Practice.

**RESOLVED:** To note the update.

- b) Proposed by Byfield Parish Council that:

*"This meeting urges the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to press DCLG to review the number of councillors required per Parish or Town Council and that a standard be set nationally".*

Byfield Parish Council would like to reduce its number from 11 to 9 councillors. The motion was seconded by Crick Parish Council which would like to increase its councillors. Although there was support for the spirit of the motion, the consensus was that the number of seats on a council should be a matter for local determination, not a national standard. **The motion was defeated.**

c) Proposed by Higham Ferrers Town Council that:

*“This meeting requests that when principal councils in Northamptonshire are considering any reorganisation of local government in the county that representatives of the parish and town council tier are included in the process to make representations, give evidence and ask questions; such involvement to be co-ordinated through Northants CALC”*

Two minor amendments were proposed and accepted by the proposer, changing “*in the county*” to “*affecting the county*” and changing “*are included*” to “*must be included*”. The motion as amended received widespread support.

**RESOLVED:** That the motion be carried and that Northants CALC should inform principal councils of it.

## 9. Keynote Speech “21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Safety”.

Stephen Mold was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire in May 2016 and has made a very fast start to his four-year term of office. He said that it was very beneficial to him to be able to meet so many councillors and clerks all at one time. He said that he has one simple overriding priority: to make Northamptonshire safer. He said that he did not have all the answers but by working together great things can be achieved.

The Police & Crime Plan will be out for consultation very soon and he urged all councils to read it and send in their views and comments. Stephen said he would welcome input from parish and town councils and said "You are the grass roots of democracy in our county. You are uniquely placed to help us deliver".

Stephen explained the key issues facing the police over the next few years, including the rise in cybercrime which brings new challenges and requires new approaches to deal with it. And all against a backdrop of reducing budgets and ever-increasing pressure on precious resources. "The reality is that the days of every village having a Bobby are gone, but every community still has a right to feel safe". Early intervention and working better and smarter together are absolutely key to achieving the aims.

Stephen then took questions from the floor, which ranged from continuity in local policing to mental health funding to increasing collaboration between the emergency services and the highways authority. One particular area of questioning was to do with the enormous housing growth in Northamptonshire, and the need for the police to engage at the very earliest stage with developers to design out crime and then to provide sufficient policing resources for the new community.

Stephen Mold wrapped up by saying that he tries to spend every Friday "out and about" and that he would welcome invitations from parish and town councils. Furthermore he runs open sessions every four to six weeks at Wootton Hall for councillors of any tier, parish, district or county, where any issue can be raised and talked through and he urged parish and town councillors to attend.

## 10. Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) & CiLCA Presentations.

Dr. Blantern congratulated those clerks that had achieved the sector qualification, the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) since the last AGM:

Felicity Ryan	Lilbourne, Clipston and Creaton Parish Councils
Kirsty Buttle	Boddington and Overthorpe Parish Councils
Caroline Holgate	East Hunsbury Parish Council
Alison Benson	Quinton, West Hunsbury and Stoke Bruerne Parish Councils

Dr. Blantern presented Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) certificates to:

Council	Award Level
Weedon Bec Parish Council	Foundation
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council	Quality
Brackley Town Council	Quality
Hardingstone Parish Council	Foundation

**11. Question & Answer session (time permitting).**

With no further questions from the floor, Danny Moody picked the prize draw winner out of the hat and Dr Blantern presented Martin Flanagan from Pitsford Parish Council with a £100 voucher kindly donated by Greenbarnes Ltd, Brackley-based manufacturers of notice boards and street furniture.

**12. Close.**

Dr Blantern thanked Stephen Mold for his excellent presentation and the sponsors, exhibitors, the Northants CALC staff and all helpers for putting on such a good AGM and particularly all the delegates for their attendance and input.

The meeting closed at 12:58 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_