

ANNUAL MEETING 2018



Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 25th October 2018 at Middlewich Town Hall, Middlewich.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Kerr; Stuart Hulse; Philip Jackson; Terry O'Neill; Hugo Deynem; Lilian Burns; Judith Critchley; John Cornell; Steve Ranger; David Rowlands; Colin Todd; Francis Tunney and Frank Walton

Together with representatives from the following Councils: -

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| Allostock Parish Council | Alsager Town Council | Antrobus Parish Council | Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council |
| Calveley Parish Council | Capenhurst & Ledsham Parish Council | Chelford Parish Council | Cheshire West & Chester |
| Chorley Parish Council | Church Minshull Parish Council | Clotton Hoofield Parish Council | Cuddington Parish Council |
| Elton Parish Council | Frodsham Town Council | Goostrey Parish Council | Great Boughton Parish Council |
| Great Budworth Parish Council | Great Warford Parish Council | Hartford Parish Council | Haslington Parish Council |
| Helsby Parish Council | Hight Legh Parish Council | Holmes Chapel Parish Council | Hulme Walfied & Somerford Booths Parish Council |
| Lach Dennis Parish Council | Malpas Parish Council | Mickle Trafford Parish Council | Middlewich Town Council |
| Neston Town Council | No Mans Heath Parish Council | Odd Rode Parish Council | Over Alderley Parish Council |
| Peover Superior Parish Council | Pott Shrigley Parish Council | Poynton Town Council | Prestbury Parish Council |
| Sandbach Town Council | Saughall & Shotwick Park Parish Council | Snelson Parish Council | Sutton Parish Council |
| Tarvin Parish Council | Tattenhall & District Parish Council | Tilston Parish Council | Upton By Chester & District Parish Council |
| Utkinton & Cotebrook Parish Council | Weston & Basford Parish Council | Willaston Parish Council | |

The President, Brian Kerr, said that this would be his 25th ChALC Annual Meeting and out of all the venues he had attended he always enjoyed returning to Middlewich. He welcomed all guests to the 2018 ChALC Annual Meeting and in particular the Mayor of Middlewich Town Council, Cllr William Walmsley and his consort Cllr Bernice Walmsley. He invited the Mayor to say a few words of welcome.

The Mayor, on behalf of Middlewich Town Council, welcomed everyone to Middlewich and thanked them for attending, he said there was a busy agenda for what should be a good meeting.

The President said that next week would be the NALC AGM and it has been an eventful year. NALC had managed to effect a welcome change in the legislation with regard to Data Protection Officers.

He also mentioned that Northwich Town Council has been shortlisted for Star Council Award, the results of which will be announced at the NALC AGM next week.

Cheshire Association of Local Councils

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In addition, Northwich Clerk, Chris Shaw, has also been nominated for the award of Clerk of the year. He asked the representatives to join with him in wishing the Council and Chris the very best of good fortune.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 19 OCTOBER 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2017, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read and offered for approval.

i/18 RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed unanimously .

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman, Cllr Stuart Hulse, invited members to note the content of the Report and to formally receive it.

Cllr Rowlands asked about the NALC grant of £42k as he thought people may wonder about it and was advised by the President that this would be covered by Cllr O'Neill when he presented the accounts.

ii/18 RESOLVED that the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2018 be accepted and duly adopted.

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

Cllr Terry O'Neill, Finance Committee Chairman, presented the accounts for approval. He drew members attention to the fact that ChALC finished the year with a healthy surplus of £11,713.

He then referred to the large figure under 'Transparency Fund Grant'. He explained that although ChALC received a management fee for administration of the fund of £3,330, the fund itself was for distribution to smaller local councils in Cheshire to enable them to comply with the obligations of the Transparency Code.

Cllr O'Neill said that although the Association is in a healthy position we are mindful of possible changes in funding, for example from Principal Authorities.

There were no questions from the floor.

iii/87 RESOLVED that the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 were approved.

SETTING OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019-20

Cllr O'Neill invited representatives to consider the Executive Board recommendation that based on a reasonable surplus for the current year and that the Association was holding healthy reserves that there should be no increase in the affiliation fee.

iv/18 RESOLVED that there be no increase in the Affiliation Fee for the forthcoming year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Chairman, Stuart Hulse, invited members to support the Executive Board's recommendation that the current President and Vice-Presidents be re-elected until the Annual Meeting 2019

v/18 RESOLVED that the Officers of the Association for the ensuing year be as follows:

President: Brian Kerr
Vice Presidents: Frank Thomas Frank Walton

The President reminded representatives that the constitution provides that 3 members each year should stand down. The following Board Members have stood down:

Alan Holder
Stuart Hulse
Peter Bulmer

The President said that only 1 Nomination had been received, Cllr S Hulse, and he formally declared that Cllr S Hulse was therefore re-elected to the Executive Board.

vi/18 RESOLVED that the Cllr Stuart Hulse be re-elected to the Executive Board

MOTIONS FROM MEMBER COUNCILS

The following motions were debated by those present, and it was agreed that where the motions were borough specific, ChALC would as a matter of course apply them to the ChALC sub-region as appropriate.

Upton by Chester Parish Council

This meeting calls upon the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to represent Town and Parish Councils, in calling for a change to legislation regarding the Annual Parish Assembly; modern communication systems mean it is no longer necessary to 'assemble' in order for comments, information and discussion to be passed on.

Proposer: Cllr Sarah Temple - Helsby

Seconder: Cllr David Rowlands – Mickle Trafford

This motion was lost.

Tattenhall and District Parish Council:

This meeting calls upon the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to lobby Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to ask them to reconsider the implementation of a blanket 20mph speed limit across large areas of the Borough. Whilst Tattenhall & District Parish Council does have concern for all road users this policy is being imposed without proper process and without evidence of need on ALL the proposed routes. The ad hoc selections will cause confusion and will not improve safety on the roads.

Imposing this £800,000 vanity policy without consulting the Parish Councils sets a dangerous precedent which erodes the democratic process and raises concerns as to what other policies may be imposed in the future

Proposer: Cllr Carol Weaver

Seconder: Cllr Pat Black

A number of people spoke from the floor in support of the motion, including councillors David Rowlands (Mickle Trafford); Sarah Temple (Helsby) and Mike Dixon (Bulkeley and Ridley) and Frank Tunney (Utkinton/ChALC Board).

This motion was carried.

Helsby Parish Council- Motion 1

This meeting calls upon ChALC to ask CWaC to remove the geographical cascade approach to allocation of affordable housing in rural exception sites so it does not include anywhere within the CWaC

area or UK-wide but is instead limited to the parish where the rural exception site is located, or adjoining parishes if appropriate. Planning permission for such rural exception sites is only granted because a local need has been demonstrated e.g. by an up-to-date independent housing assessment prepared by, or in collaboration with, the Parish / Town Council. Widening the geographical area beyond the local area leads to exploitation of rural exception site planning policy by speculative developers and does not encourage developers/housing associations to review house prices so they are truly “affordable” for the local community.

Proposer: Cllr Sarah Temple

Seconder: Cllr Stuart Hulse

This motion was carried unanimously.

Helsby Parish Council – Motion 2

This meeting calls upon ChALC to lobby CWaC so that Traffic Regulation Orders for road closures are issued and notified in timely fashion to the relevant Parish / Town Council. Helsby has the example of Old Chester Road and other member councils may have had similar problems.

Proposer: Cllr Sarah Temple

Seconder: Cllr Stuart Hulse

This motion was carried.

Calveley Parish Council

This meeting calls upon the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to lobby both Cheshire East (CEC) and Cheshire West & Chester (CWaC) to work with the Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (C&WLEP) and Transport for the North (TfN) to initiate, before the end of 2018, the proposed Connectivity Study around the A51 from the A55 to the dual carriageway of the A500 at Nantwich. This study has been in the planning stage for over 12 months and needs only a small amount of money to allow it to begin.

Proposer: Cllr Matthew Waterhouse

Seconder: Cllr F Colton – Clotton Hoofield

Cllr P Jackson spoke in support of this motion on behalf of the ChALC Board.

This motion was carried unanimously.

Malpas Parish Council – Motion 1

This meeting calls upon the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to write to CW&C to request a copy of, or ask for the creation of, a Standard Operating procedure (SOP) to clearly set out how the Borough Council secure payments to Parish Councils that have been created through building scheme initiatives, such as Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 payments and New Homes Bonus

Proposer: Cllr Richard Charlton

Seconder: Cllr Tony Day – No Mans Heath

This motion was carried.

Malpas Parish Council – Motion 2

This meeting calls upon the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to write to CW&C and ask them to desist from requesting part payment from Parish councils for works that the Borough Council are obliged to complete.

Proposer: Cllr Richard Charlton

Seconder: Cllr Tony Day – No Mans Heath

Cllr D Rowlands said that Mickle Trafford supported this motion as there is a strong element of double taxation.

The motion was carried.

Cllr Hulse referenced Cllr Burn's publication on Neighbourhood Planning. Hard copies were available earlier in the evening, but he advised that it can also be downloaded from the NALC website. He advised that an electronic copy would be send to members following the meeting.

VOTE OF THANKS

Philip Jackson thanked Cllr Hulse for the work he had done in the past year, in particular in the NW Region. He thanked the members of the Executive Board, the President Cllr Kerr and the Vice Presidents, Cllr Frank Walton and Frank Thomas. He thanked the Finance Chairman Cllr O'Neill and Cllr L Burns who represents ChALC on the NALC Committee. He went on to thank the ChALC Staff team - Chief Officer, Jackie Weaver, and Nikki Hewitt and Hazel Merrill. Finally, he thanked Middlewich for use of their excellent facility; the caterers and everyone for attending.

CLOSING REMARKS

The President, Brian Kerr, concluded the evening by once again thanking everyone for attending and adding that it had been an excellent meeting, he reminded everyone to please fill in the feedback form.

Finally, The President closed the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.