

FEB 2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at Broomhall and Sound Methodist Chapel, Wednesday 6th February 2019, 10.30am

PRESENT

L Burns	J Cornell	J Critchley	S Hulse
P Jackson	B Kerr	T O'Neill	D Rowlands
L Smetham	C Todd	F Tunney	J Weaver

APOLOGIES

H Deynem	J Heselwood	S Ranger A Keppel-Green	F Walton
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The Chairman, Stuart Hulse, welcomed everyone to the meeting

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated in advance.

283/19

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2018 be approved without amendment.

COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised members that he had attended Northern Group meeting, he also attended a meeting of 'Less Common Metals'. This company formed from Rare Earth Metals and a company from Brussels that has secure EU funding. He said that he would ensure that any relevant information will be circulated.

D Rowlands asked if the rare metals are deemed harmful?

S Hulse said that he did not believe so but added that they are however useful.

J Cornell added that he had a natural suspicion.

S Hulse said he will keep parishes involved.

C Todd asked if there was any representation from the farming community.

S Hulse replied that there was not.

The Chairman advised members that he had met with the Chief Officer regarding her appraisal. He advised that all was well and that he had agreed that ChALC would support her in undertaking Mediation Training.

284/19

It was agreed that the Board support the proposal that the Chief Officer access the required training with an anticipated cost of c. £2000.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Deputy Chairman reminded members of the papers he had previously circulated. He added that the LTB report was just bullet points but that the full minutes are available on their website.

CHIEF OFFICERS REPORT

The Chief Officer advised members that she had had productive meetings with CW&C (Pam Bradley) and had received confirmation of same level of funding for forthcoming year (£14,700).

The previous team that ChALC had engaged with from CE are no longer part of the structure but a new relationship has been forged with Nicola Glover-Edge (Communities Manager) and Dan Dickinson (Monitoring Officer). Between them it has been agreed to fund ChALC for the forthcoming year at £16,700 taking account of the additional work coming from the Community Governance Review.

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ChALC has been working with both unitaries to ensure support for the parishes going into elections. Briefings have been sent out by CW&C and there is a meeting being held tomorrow afternoon to bring Clerks up to speed on what is happening. CE is catching up and should be producing something later this week (it should have been done at the Parish Conference which was cancelled due to the poor weather).

J Weaver also advised members that ChALC are working closely with one of our Town Councils on their recruitment and have been developing a support package for recruitment in general so parishes will be better prepared for future recruitment.

J Weaver also told members of the work ChALC are currently doing around 'Locum Clerks' whereby a group has been set up and is in the process of meeting so that they will be supported in the work they do.

Staff Appraisals

J Weaver said that staff appraisals have been drafted and will be worked through with staff in the next few weeks. There are no items that need to be highlighted.

There was positive feedback from the Board and they expressly wished their thanks to be conveyed to the staff team.

REPORT OF NALC REPRESENTATIVE – LILLIAN BURNS

Cllr Lillian Burns spoke to the paper she previously circulated (attached hereto). She referred specifically to the response to MHCLG on their views on a community framework. This document was agreed with some minor suggested additions. The amended version will be circulated by Cllr Burns and will be submitted to NALC.

Members thanked Cllr Burns for the work she had put in on these submissions.

L Burns added that how motions are being put forward is being reviewed and added how conferences and the AGM are being managed is also up for review.

MATTERS RAISED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD

F Tunney advised members that Tarporley Ward including Tiverton are meeting with CW&C to consider transport within the ward.

J Cornell said that car parking standards on new housing estates were being discussed as currently the minimum standards are woeful. He added that North Somerset is leading on this area of work and that there is currently a test case within the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan.

J Weaver reminded members of the CW&C Parish Conference on 27th February and urged members to book if they had not already done so (noting that questions must be submitted in advance).

T O'Neill said that with Grants, S106 and CIL Helsby have been able to deliver a lot for their community.

S Hulse is meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss the new post of 'Teacher PCSO'. He advised members that the post of Commissioner is up for election next year, 2020.

L Smetham added that Road Safety is a big issue in her ward.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday 10th April 2019 10.30am

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REPORT TO ChALC EXECUTIVE BOARD FROM NALC REPRESENTATIVE LILLIAN BURNS – FOR BOARD MEETING ON FEB. 6TH, 2019

In the eight weeks since the last ChALC board meeting I have attended a NALC Policy Committee meeting and, separately, a meeting with the chief exec., Jonathan Owen, and Justin Griggs, along with David Francis from Northumberland, to discuss the next project I will be working on for NALC. (It is still in development). David has now taken over as Policy Committee Chairman and has just stood down as Chair of the Smaller Councils Committee.

I have also fed into several NALC responses to government consultations/ calls for evidence.

Sometimes members of the Policy Committee are simply asked to send comments through on a consultation/ call for evidence we are referred to (Chris Borg, the policy officer usually provides a short summary on the essence of the consultation, but not always). Sometimes we are asked to comment on a draft response that NALC has already prepared and sometimes we are informed that NALC has been invited directly by government to submit comments on specific matters. However, the main thing to understand is that Policy Committee members are usually given only a few days' notice to respond, which makes it impossible to consult with colleagues in members' own County Associations. Despite the short period of time usually given for feedback, I do try to carry out some research in order to provide an intelligent and informed response. If I am unable to do this and it is a subject matter I know little about, there have been odd occasions where I have not submitted comments - rather than fire off an inane comment off the top of my head.

Wishing to be transparent with ChALC board members about the sort of contributions I am making to NALC, I am appending to this report my feedback on four recent consultations/ calls for evidence plus my proposed contribution to a debate on a Communities Framework.

1. There was a 'call for evidence' by an independent body set up by government to look at landscapes. My contribution (text in red) is attached.
2. DEFRA has held a consultation on its latest 'Clean Air Strategy'. My contribution to the national response is attached.
3. NALC was sent a draft of a research brief which the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) was proposing to circulate to consultants to ask them to bid for research work about Neighbourhood Planning. The timing of this was very interesting – a few months after the publication of the NALC report into Neighbourhood Planning which I wrote along with a former CPRE colleague, Andy Yuille, who is doing a doctorate in Neighbourhood Planning. Andy and I do not know whether there is a direct 'cause and effect' here, but it seems very likely that there is. I attach my submission to NALC on this issue.
4. There was a recent written ministerial statement on Brexit which NALC decided it would comment upon (even though NALC has no official position on Brexit). It asked for comments. My suggested additions to NALC's comments are in red, attached.

In all the above cases I have quoted, I was informed by Chris Borg that my comments had been incorporated into the official NALC response.

Then, this last week, an email came through from Justin Griggs asking for comments from Policy Committee members on a Communities Framework that the MHCLG is drawing up. However, this email, which I replicate after the end of this report below, also says that County Associations will be asked for their opinions. I have drawn up my response to his appeal, which is attached, which I am entitled to simply submit in my own right as a member of the Policy Committee. However, in view of the timing of this early February ChALC board meeting, it would be really good if I could inform him that it was also endorsed by the ChALC board. This would not, of course, prevent you submitting your own comments as the Board/ County Association as well. I will leave that with you to consider.

I am intending to attend the NALC Spring Conference on February 11th, at my own expense. (My Parish Council would never contemplate funding someone's attendance at an event which costs more than a very nominal amount of money). I will also be attending a meeting of the NALC Smaller Councils Committee on the following day.

The next NALC Policy Committee meeting is on March 8th and the next National Assembly meeting on March 13th – both of which I intend to attend.

REPORT ENDS.

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