



Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at 10.15 am on Saturday 8 October 2022
in Felton Village Hall.

Present:

Mr D Woodard (President in the Chair), Cllr A Wallace (Chair of the County Committee), Ms G Turner (Honorary Treasurer) and representatives of 23 Member Councils.

Graeme Popay (Chief Officer)

And other guests including Glen Sanderson Leader of NCC, Kim McGuinness Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner. Andy Dean CAN and Guest speaker Rob Murfin Interim Executive Director of Planning & Local Services at NCC

1: Welcome and apologies for absence

The President welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the new CO Graeme Popay

Apologies were given from

- Tony Hood
- Cllr Alan Sambrook
- Iain Hedley
- Cllr David Hughes
- Cllr Isabel Hunter
- Cllr Loraine De Simone
- Cllr Adrian Hinchcliffe
- Cllr Simon Taylor
- Cllr Sharon Brown

2: Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The minutes of the 2021 AGM had been previously circulated and were agreed as a true record and signed by the President. It was agreed that waiting 12 months to approve minutes was not always practical and the minutes from this AGM meeting would be approved at the next County meeting.

3: Matters arising

None

4: Annual Report 2021 - 2022

In moving the Annual Report as previously circulated, Cllr Wallace reflected on the past year – a full return to face to face meetings with the added benefit of online training has been most welcome. Member Councils, their Councillors and Staff have been an inspiration. Local Councils are not only at the heart of their communities but in many cases are its heart. He paid tribute to his colleagues on the County Committee, CAN for their assistance and the staff. The report was approved. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

5: Finance

5.1 The Accounts for 2021-2022

On the recommendation of the Honorary Treasurer, the Accounts 2021 -2022 (as shown in the Annual Report) were considered and approved. Gillian thanked Margaret Tweddell for her continued hard work in keeping and presenting the financial information in such good order.

The Honorary Treasurer invited questions from members, there were none.

5.2 Subscription formula for 2022-2023

The recommendation from the National ALC was a 3% rise in their 2022/23 levy, but it was felt that in these uncertain times and ever increasing costs, that this Association maintain both the standard amount and the variable element based on the Band D equivalent at no more than 1%.

Alex asked Andy Dean from CAN if there were any anticipated additional costs or uplift from CAN for the service they provide. Andy's response was that CAN would not be increasing any of their costs to this Association in the coming year.

On the recommendation of the County Committee, the Meeting resolved that this Association increases both the standard amount and the variable element based on the Band D equivalent by 1%

All agreed

6: Honorary Officers

The following were elected as the Honorary Officers:

President – David Woodard

Vice Presidents – David Francis and Alex Wallace

Treasurer – Gillian Turner

Auditor – Peter Basnett

Draft One – subject to ratification at the next County Meeting

The Leader of NCC Cllr Glen Sanderson was invited by the Chair of the County Committee to say a few words as he was unable to stay for the full meeting due.

Cllr Sanderson stated that building and improving relationships between County and Town/Parish Councils was his key agenda. He asked members to invite him to their meetings and that he was always there to speak to if parish/town councils were failing to get traction with local issues. He reported that the new CE of NCC would be appointed shortly and the County Executive is expected to be in place by February 2023

Alex thanked Cllr Sanderson

7: Any other urgent business

As there being none, the President declared the meeting closed at 10:30 am, thanking the Felton Village Hall for providing the facility and for all those attending..

8: Presentation and Discussion – Rob Murfin Interim Executive Director of Planning & Local Services.

Rob introduced himself to members and then talked at length on several topics including:

- The Neighbourhood Plan and the vision to 2035
- The New Local Plan
- Settlement boundaries
- Affordable housing
- Climate Change and its impact on housing
- Community Led housing approach
- Section 106

Rob invited and answered several questions from the members.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Rob from the President David Woodard

Confirmed as a true record
and signed by the President

Date.....