



**NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

**Minutes of the meeting of the County Committee at 10am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Stakeford and Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre, West Gordon Terrace. Stakeford. Northumberland**

**Present in person:** Cllrs: Gwen Woodman, John Potts, David Francis, Keith Grimes, Paul Vaughan, Simon Taylor, David Nicholson, Alan Taylor, Martin Dickson-Green,

**Present online:** Cllrs: Graham Curry, Sylvia Hillan, David Hughes, Liz Dunn, Isabel Hunter, Chris (Cuthbert?).

**Also Present**

Mr Alex Wallace - Chairman  
Mt David Woodard -President  
Ms Gillian Turner - Treasurer  
Mr Graeme Popay – Chief Officer [Actions marked as GP]

**1: Welcome.**

Alex welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Stakeford and Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre for the use of their super venue.

Alex asked members present to observe a minutes silence in memory of Cllr Malcolm Peden of Newbiggin who recently passed away.

**2: Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs: Monica Anderton, Paul Claridge, Paul Dancer, Colin Wakeling, Graham Eastwood.

**3: Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

All agreed to accept the minute as a true record.

**4: Matter Arising (To include Item 9 Issues raised by Committee members).**

Discussion over the purpose of this committee, its strengths, weaknesses and possible opportunities it has to debate several topical issues affecting our Parish and Town Councils. Topics that were suggested that could be or should have been covered by this committee included, The new devolution deal for the North East, Police and Crime, Traffic Issues in tourist hotspots, deteriorating condition of our highways, Star Awards and promoting good practice, smaller Parish Councils that are struggling with a lack of numbers and a small precept, election costs and the National Association and policies.

It was agreed to revisit this topic, possibly with a working group, to determine which issues the Committee needed to concentrate on in the coming year.

**5: NCC Charter**

Discussion over the financial responsibilities and obligations of a Parish/Town Council as laid out in the Charter. In particular election costs and the lack of training and development.

Outcome: to set up a working group ahead of the review date.



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### **6: NCC Council Tax**

Cllr A Wallace talked through the coming NCC budget, which has been debated by councillors throughout February, with expected cuts of £17 million and a proposed increase of 2.99% to the Council Tax. Frontline services will not be affected. To be put before full council and discussed on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **7: Finance**

A financial report was tabled showing the current position

Outcome - All agreed to accept the report.

### **8: National issues**

David Francis gave a verbal report on national key issues

### **9: Issues raised by Committee members**

See item 4

### **10: Briefing Program for 2023**

Summary of the 2023 briefing programme was noted. The CO is also investigating Training opportunities from other providers.

### **10: Mentoring**

To be held over to the next meeting due to lack of time

### **11: County Conference**

To be held over to the next meeting due to lack of time

### **13: Any Other Urgent Business**

Kings Garden Party - Cllr A Wallace announced that following an advert in the NALC ENews several people had been nominated to attend the garden party. All the nominated names were put in a draw. The winner was Cllr Michael Gibson, Chair of Newbrough Parish Council. Cllr Gibson has been a Parish Councillor for over 40 years and the Chair of Newbrough for 18 years.

### **13: Future Meeting of the Committee**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 starting at 10.00 am in the Stakeford and Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre, West Gordon Terrace, Stakeford, Northumberland NE62 5UD

**Meeting Closed at 12:15**