



Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at 10.00am on Saturday 28th October 2023
in Stakeford and Bomarsund Social Welfare Centre, Stakeford.

Present:

Mr D Woodard (President in the Chair), Cllr A Wallace (Chair of the County Committee), Ms G Turner (Honorary Treasurer) and representatives of 10 Member Councils.

Graeme Popay (Chief Officer)

And guest speaker Chris Thompson NCC Director of Digital & Information Technology.

1: Welcome and apologies for absence

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were given from

- Kim Guinness Tony Hood
- Cllr Glen Sanderson
- Andy Dean
- Dr E Patterson
- Cllr David Hughes
- Cllr Isabel Hunter
- Cllr Colin Wakeling
- Cllr Liz Dunn
- Cllr Thomas Stewart
- Cllr Sylvia Hill
- Cllr Karen Overbury

2: Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes of the 2022 AGM had been previously approved at the County Committee meeting on 19th November 2022.

3: Matters arising

None

4: Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Cllr Wallace reflected on the past 12 months and his eight years in the Chair. – he expressed his gratitude to all the members who attend the County Committee meetings and who's willingness to participate made his much job easier. Cllr Wallace talked about the success of the recent County Conference and how Parish and Town Councils can play their part as trusted partners to deliver an enhanced services to their Communities. He thanked Andy Dean and the officers at CAN for their continued support. Cllr Wallace invited the CO to say a few words

The CO Graeme Popay thanked Cllr Wallace for his support and guidance in what was a very busy first year in office starting with the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. It was a great honour to be involved in these historical occasions and he expressed his thanks to Stephen Rickitt for his assistance in navigating us all through this sensitive time and keeping him right. The rolling out of the new professional training program and series of NCC zoom briefings had been well received and would be the foundation for more training in the future. He thanks members for their support and looked forward to the coming year.

The report was approved. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

5: Finance

5.1 The Accounts for 2022-2023

On the recommendation of the Honorary Treasurer, the Accounts 2022 -2023 (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 2023/24 levy,

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 3%

All agreed

6: Honorary Officers

The following were elected as the Honorary Officers:

President – David Woodard

Vice Presidents – David Francis Mike Wood and Alex Wallace

Treasurer – no nomination received

Auditor – Peter Basnett

Ratified at the County Committee meeting on 25th November 2023

The President thanked Gillian for her years of dedicated service as the Hon County Treasurer to The County Committee. On behalf of all members Gillian was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

7: Membership of the County Committee

A full list of members and the Councils they represent was distributed. The proposal was to re-elect all members for a three year term.

This was agreed

8: Any other urgent business

Future meetings - it was agreed that dates for the next AGM and the next 12 months of County Committee meetings should be set at the next County Committee

9: Presentation and Discussion – Chris Thompson NCC Director of Digital & Information Technology

Chris introduced himself to members and via a very informative power point presentation Chris covered four topics in detail:

- User-centred digital services
- Broadband and mobile
- Digital inclusion
- Digital switchover

Chris invited and answered several questions from the members. Chris offered to repeat the presentation via a zoom presentation.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Chris from the Vice President Mike Wood.

Confirmed as a true record
and signed by the President

David Woodard

25TH Nov 2023

Ratified at the County Committee meeting on 25th November 2023