



## Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews  
28 April 2021  
Please forward to all Councillors  
and Staff**

---

### **Digital Meetings**

As colleagues may be aware, there is a case in the High Court seeking a decision that councils can continue to hold digital meetings even after the lapse of the specific power in the Coronavirus Act 2020.

The public listings of cases show that the judgment is expected to be issued late this afternoon (Wed 28 April).

We anticipate dispatching initial details to to the Chairmen and Clerks of Member Councils this evening.

## Vacancy for a Clerk

Eglington Parish Council are seeking a new clerk, full details are at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/34d6f3bd-6cde-474b-a5f2-8d8721b9d25e/EPC\\_Advert\\_for\\_Parish\\_Clerk\\_23.4.2021.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/34d6f3bd-6cde-474b-a5f2-8d8721b9d25e/EPC_Advert_for_Parish_Clerk_23.4.2021.docx)

## Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

Councils in Northumberland are reminded that all parish, town & community councillors will have to complete a new declaration even if there have been no changes since a previous form was completed. Whilst councils may use their own form, we know that many councils use the forms proved by the county council.

A copy is available via this link

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/81c34652-1cd4-4a3c-a2b9-d43a1e26dc3a/\\_2\\_New\\_Northumberland\\_DOI\\_registration\\_form\\_2017.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/81c34652-1cd4-4a3c-a2b9-d43a1e26dc3a/_2_New_Northumberland_DOI_registration_form_2017.pdf)

When completed, a signed hard copy should be posted to the Democratic Services Team, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF.

## Electronic Communications Infrastructure

MHCLG have launched a consultation seeking views on proposals to allow far higher masts than at present and potentially further reducing the already limited powers of planning authorities to object.

The national NALC have produced a briefing at

[35eb8-6d60-4564-8746-1e6a41b80988/PC4\\_21\\_Electronic\\_communications\\_infrastructure.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-permitted-development-rights-for-electronic-communications-infrastructure-technical-consultation)

The MHCLG consultation page is at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-permitted-development-rights-for-electronic-communications-infrastructure-technical-consultation>

The Association's County Committee will be meeting on 11 June and any thoughts from Member Councils would be welcomed by the end of May please.

## **VAT on Digital Services**

The Association's VAT consultants, The Parkinson Partnership, have updated their guidance note about VAT on digital services from outside the UK which includes details of Zoom's new GB VAT number.

The guidance note is at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e09df17e-87ad-42f4-8a42-3c4280875ca4/VAT\\_on\\_digital\\_services\\_from\\_other\\_countries\\_Update\\_April\\_2021.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/e09df17e-87ad-42f4-8a42-3c4280875ca4/VAT_on_digital_services_from_other_countries_Update_April_2021.pdf)

## **Digital Exclusion and Rural Broadband**

The House of Lords recently published a report and included in their summary is

*"Most damningly, we heard time and again that the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in society were being further marginalised and disadvantaged because they did not have the money to pay for an internet connection and a computer, did not have the appropriate space at home, or did not have the skills and confidence to fully participate in the online world."*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/460/covid19-committee/publications/>

DCMS recently launched a consultation into Rural Broadband.

A copy of the national NALC's briefing note and call for responses is at

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/a1e1a2ce-58d1-46fd-9e26-4c1b2a40e47c/PC3\\_21\\_Rural\\_broadband.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/a1e1a2ce-58d1-46fd-9e26-4c1b2a40e47c/PC3_21_Rural_broadband.pdf)

The DCMS consultation is available via

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises>

## Reports and other articles of possible interest

### Climate Change

James Fawcett considers what further developments we might see in response to shifting environmental challenges

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/environment/767-environmental-features/46802-climate-change-extreme-weather-and-shifting-liability-risks>

### Time and Planning Permissions

In a two-part series, Roy Pinnock looks at the lessons to be learned after a High Court judge recently quashed a planning permission granted in 2014.

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/planning/318-planning-features/46832-time-becomes-a-loop>

There's a further article in which Bernadette Hillman and Christos Paphiti outline the new permitted development right and what it means for the property sector and planners

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/sharpeedge/811-sharpeedge-property/46880-home-is-where-the-heart-is>

### [Neighbourhood Plans and other funds](#)

MHCLG have written to all planning authorities explaining the funds which have been announced to assist in encouraging take-up of Neighbourhood Plans

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/980360/Chief Planner Letter on New Neighbourhood Planning Support.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980360/Chief_Planner_Letter_on_New_Neighbourhood_Planning_Support.pdf)



---

***If you have any comments or observations, please contact  
Stephen Rickitt, NALC Chief Officer [stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk](mailto:stephenrickitt@northumberlandalc.uk)  
or  
Louise Currie, Community Initiatives Officer [louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk)***

***Our website is at <https://northumberlandalc.uk/>***

***If you no longer wish to receive NALC E news click here:***

{unsubscribe}Unsubscribe{/unsubscribe}

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

---