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Northumberland Association of Local Councils

**NALC Enews
29 July 2021**

**Please forward to all Councillors
and Staff**

Job Vacancies

East Chevington Parish Council are seeking a new Clerk. Details are at

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/2e213d3b-fb30-6fcd-8058-e55fd42edb4b/Clerk_Job_East_Chevington.pdf

Hauxley Parish Council are seeking a new Clerk. Details are at

Ashington Town Council are seeking a new Town Clerk. Details are at <http://ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk/vacancies>

Coronavirus

The Health and Safety Executive have issued guidance on a safe working environment. The importance of ventilation is becoming clearer than ever. Please see the advice at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/>

The guidance for Local Govt. is at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>

The national NALC endeavour to keep their guidance as up-to-date as possible
<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

A corrected link

The last Enews managed to have an incorrect link for the Local Nature Recovery Pilots. It should have been

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategy-pilots-lessons-learned>

Our apologies.

Freedom of Expression

concerning freedom of expression. We aim to prepare a fuller note after the summer. These are all lengthy decisions

Robinson, R (On the Application Of) v Buckinghamshire Council [2021] EWHC 2014 (Admin) (20 July 2021)

Here, the Court reiterates that where a complaint against a parish council member of misconduct is by reference to what the member said and/or how he or she said it, and Article 10 of the ECHR is applicable, freedom of expression is important, and while that is so for everybody, it is especially so for elected representatives. The first link is to a summary and the second to the full judgment

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/governance/396-governance-news/47715-high-court-quashes-decision-by-deputy-monitoring-officer-that-parish-councillor-had-breached-code-of-conduct>

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/2014.html>

McNally v Saunders [2021] EWHC 2012 (QB) (16 July 2021)

A series of “unpleasant, personally critical publications” by a blogger about a senior local government officer did not found a successful claim for harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, a High Court judge has ruled. The first link is to a summary and the second to the full judgment

<https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/employment/395-employment-news/47683-senior-council-officer-fails-in-harassment-claim-against-local-blogger>

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/QB/2021/2012.html>

Planning

consultation and the government's response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-and-national-model-design-code-consultation-proposals>

The revised National Planning Policy Framework is at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

The House of Commons Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee have published a report "Permitted Development Rights"

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6896/documents/72563/default/>

Flags

The Govt. have published a guide at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide>

The College of Arms has published two versions of the Union flag as being accurate representations suitable for use. Downloadable colour and line drawings may be accessed online

<https://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/resources/union-flag-approved-designs>

Annual Leave

Stephen Rickitt is on annual leave from noon Thursday 29 July 2021 and due to return to NALC work on Tuesday 24 August 2021.

He will not be accessing NALC emails during this period.

Reports and other articles of possible

The National Disability Strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-disability-strategy>

Healthwatch Northumberland's quarterly report for the first quarter of the year 2021-22

[https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/03343295-5e51-0c6d-a1bc-ebd5ae639cba/Healthwatch Northumberland Quarterly Report Q1 2021 22 Final.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/03343295-5e51-0c6d-a1bc-ebd5ae639cba/Healthwatch_Northumberland_Quarterly_Report_Q1_2021_22_Final.pdf)

The national NALC have circulated a policy consultation briefing for the National Resilience Strategy Call For Evidence

https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/3604a572-2903-fd65-b20a-7a1f3dac7306/PC5_21_National_resilience_strategy.pdf

Although the Ombudsman does not have a role in our sector, the 'widening cracks' in local government complaint handling are being highlighted in the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's annual review of complaints 2020-2021.

<https://www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news/2021/jul/ombudsman-annual-review-highlights-widening-cracks-in-council-complaints-systems>

The House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee has published "Post-pandemic economic growth: Levelling

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6897/documents/72564/default/>

The National Audit Office have reported on the challenges in implementing digital change

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-challenges-in-implementing-digital-change/>

The time is right to consider a more radical review of local government finances, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has said.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6777/documents/72117/default/>



If you have any comments or observations, please contact
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