

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting

Held at: Holiday Inn, Winchester

On: Saturday 4th November 2023 10:00am – 12:00pm

Present

Directors

Cllr Brice Stratford (Chair)
Cllr Tony Spencer
Cllr Jon Woodman

Staff

Dawn Hamblet, Chief Executive
Amy Taylor, Operations Manager
Sarah Goudie, Member Services Manager
Robert Pettigrew, Comms & Engagement
Manager
Sharon Nineham, HR Consultant
Karen Convery, Business Support Officer

Guest Speakers

Rt Hon Jon Denham (President)
Steve Tilbury – Steve Tilbury Consulting Ltd

Attendees

The attendance list is available at the end of this document.

1 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE HAMPSHIRE ALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chair introduced himself as a new Director and welcomed 52 delegates representing 39 councils to the 76th Hampshire ALC AGM and thanked them all for attending. A particular welcome was extended to the guest speakers for the conference.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following individuals:

Cllr Clive Ward – Hampshire ALC Director



Apologies were received from 23 member councils:

Ampfield Parish Council	Hambledon Parish Council
Barton Stacey Parish Council	Hordle Parish Council
Baughurst Parish Council	Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council
Bishopstoke Parish Council	Kingsclere Parish Council
Brockenhurst Parish Council	Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council
Bursledon Parish Council	Overton Parish Council
Charlton Parish Council	Stratfield Turgis Parish Council
Colden Common Parish Council	Tadley Parish Council
Dogmersfield Parish Council	Vernham Dean Parish Council
Eversley Parish Council	Weston Corbett & Weston Patrick
Greatham Parish Council	Winslade Parish Meeting
Greywell Parish Council	

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE HAMPSHIRE ALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A presentation was given by the Rt Hon. John Denham on the current issues facing local and parish councils; particularly focusing on the extension of devolution arrangements and housebuilding across the region.

4 TO RECEIVE & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

It was resolved that the minutes from the 75th Annual General Meeting held on 20th October 2022 were a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

The minutes were agreed unanimously.

5 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL REVIEW

The annual accounts were prepared by Accord Accountants, approved at the Board Meeting in October and had been circulated by email to all members with the AGM Agenda and included within the delegate packs. The Chief Executive reported that Hampshire ALC had made an operating surplus of £24,000. This was due to savings on accommodation costs as we had been unable to fully access our offices at the



beginning of the year, and some due to savings on staff vacancies. These will not be ongoing savings.

The Chief Executive advised that due to changes at EBC and how meeting rooms use is now prioritised, we have had to make last-minute changes to some training courses. For this reason, we are mostly using external venues to hold training courses and may be seeking new office premises or renegotiating our current arrangements, which will have an impact moving forward.

Member councils were given the opportunity to ask questions on the Annual Accounts.

Brian Foster from Clanfield PC clarified that reserves had increased and asked what they were used for and if they were ringfenced. The Chief Executive responded by explaining that there was a pension deficit in the LGPS as well as retaining a year's worth of operating costs within reserves.

Lisa Crosher from Boyatt Wood PC asked why the Annual Review omitted Eastleigh Town and Boyatt Wood Parish Councils. It was also noted that Allbrook and North Boyatt Parish Council requires amendment to Allbrook Parish Council. Apologies were given and required amendments noted.

Nigel Harrison from Grayshott PC queried that the ALC operates with 7 Directors and Companies House currently only shows 4. Is this a cause for concern and what is the representation for East Hampshire? The Chief Executive responded that the HALC Articles require 7 Directors for the 7 parished areas. A number of Directors stepped down in May, and there had been one Director unable to attend meetings due to long term illness, who has also now stepped down. This had led to the board being inquorate for a period of time. New directors for Hart and the New Forest Districts had been appointed in September, meaning the board was no longer inquorate since that date. Several district associations have struggled to find new people willing to put themselves forward as directors. She did however note that the Eastleigh district association had recently elected a new chair, who would subsequently be appointed as a director, leaving just Basingstoke and East Hants to put forward a director and we are working to support these areas with this. The Chief Executive confirmed that the required minimum number of meetings (4) had been held during periods the board were quorate and all day-to-day operational decisions are matters for the Chief Executive so there had been no impact on services to members.

6 TO AGREE BY RESOLUTION THE LEVEL OF ALC MEMBER COUNCIL AFFILIATION FEES FOR 2023/24

The Chief Executive spoke on this resolution and advised this was debated at the last Board Meeting. In recognition of the financial challenges being experienced, the last HALC fee increase was back in 2019. The current grant received from Hampshire County Council is £51,300 although we are expecting this to reduce while seeing an increase to accommodation and venue costs as previously mentioned, due to the uncertainty of the lease with Eastleigh Borough Council.

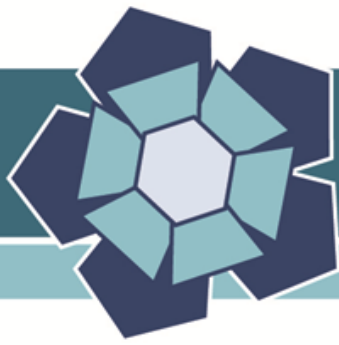
The Directors' proposal is for a £10,000 increase across all member councils, as per the report circulated to all members prior to the AGM. This includes an increase in the cap for larger councils to £1,100 per council; an increase of £50 per year and for the majority of councils this equates to an average increase of less than £1 per week, with an average annual increase of £38. The report did not include NALC's recently reported 3% increase as HALC documentation was prepared prior to this announcement.

Anthony Williams from Headley PC asked why Whitehill TC, were a larger council, but their increase was a smaller percentage. The Chief Executive agreed that the cap is not perfect but larger councils tend not to use our services as often due to their internal resources. However, if the cap was increased too much it would deter larger councils from remaining as members and engagement would be lost.

It was resolved to increase the HALC member council affiliation fees as proposed for 2024/2025. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Jon Woodman and seconded by Cllr Tiggy Ayoub. There were 33 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 2 abstentions. The resolution was passed.

7 TO REAPPOINT BY RESOLUTION THE PROPOSED INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

The Chief Executive reminded the meeting that at the last AGM we undertook to review alternative external verifiers, given that our previous provider had been undertaking the role for several years. This is an additional service provided by our accountants, who have full access to our finance system. We met with 3 local firms (including our current provider) to discuss the services they could offer. This was then debated at the October board meeting, and it was agreed that a recommendation was made to the AGM to appoint BJT Accountants to this role.



The resolution to appoint BJT Accountants was proposed by Cllr Eric Bodger and seconded by Cllr Brian Foster. The resolution was passed unanimously.

8 AWARDS

The Chief Executive welcomed the opportunity to announce the recipients of the Hampshire ALC 2023 awards, to acknowledge the good practice of councils in various areas. The level of entries in all categories had been remarkably high.

The awards were presented by the Chair, as follows:

Best Local Council Website – e-mango Shield & Certificates

Winner: Denmead Parish Council
Runner-up: Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council

Best Local Council Newsletter – Microshade Shield & Certificates

Winner: Sparsholt Parish Council
Runner-up: Allbrook Parish Council

Best Use of Social Media – Glass Trophy & Certificates

Winner: Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council
Runner-up: Elvetham Heath Parish Council

Hampshire Council of the Year 2023 Shield & Certificates

Winner: South Wonston Parish Council

Hampshire Clerk of the Year 2023 - Shield & Certificates

Winner: Sue Bailey, Hythe, and Dibden Parish Council
Runner-up: Andrea Mann, Odiham Parish Council
Highly Commended: Rachel Jones, South Wonston Parish Council

9 PRESENTATION BY STEVE TILBURY OF STEVE TILBURY CONSULTING

A presentation on the current planning challenges faced by local councils was given and questions invited following the presentation.



Questions raised from the floor as follows:

Peter Curnow-Ford, Bramshott and Liphook asked how they can get towards net zero and what influence can they have over the local plan? There were recommendations the parish council submit their observations during any reviews of the local plan.

Tiggy Ayoub, Boarhunt PC asked what may happen with local consistent “nibbling and change of use” within planning leading to lack of infrastructure. The local government have extended the use of Permitted Development Rights (PDR) which will and has resulted in the above. New legislation is being considered to remove some local plans and put to a national level.

Judy Marsh, Bishops Waltham PC expressed concerns that development is taking place and local doctors' surgeries are unable to cope with the increase. There is a disparity, but this comes from the NHS who have advised that they do not have the resources for additional facilities.

10 REMARKS AND CLOSURE OF MEETING BY CHAIRMAN OF THE HAMPSHIRE ALC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chair summarised that it was apparent that planning was a key matter within local communities, and the importance of engagement and activity in contributing to local plans and design. A point of reference is the report *Living with Beauty* on the Create Streets website. The Chair thanked John Denham and Steve Tilbury for their presentations, expressed his congratulations to the winners of the awards and finally to all members for their support and attendance.

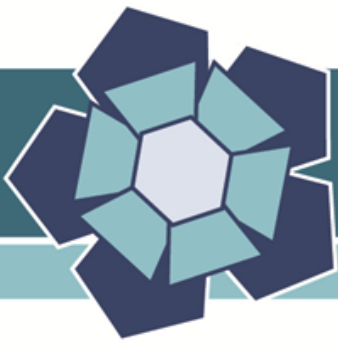
Meeting closed at 12:00pm

COUNCIL ATTENDEES

Council	Name
Allbrook Parish Council	Nancy Palmer
Allbrook Parish Council	Paul Handley-Garland
Bishops Waltham Parish Council	Judy Marsh
Bishops Waltham Parish Council	Emma McKenzie
Boarhunt Parish Council	Tiggy Ayoub
Botley Parish Council	Chris Cooper
Botley Parish Council	Janine Stone



Boyatt Wood Parish Council	Lisa Crosher
Boyatt Wood Parish Council	Simon Payne
Bramley Parish Council	Malcolm Bell
Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council	Jeanette Kirby
Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council	Jane Sawyer
Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council	Peter Curnow-Ford
Buriton Parish Council	Helen Hill
Burley Parish Council	Katie Hedge
Chandlers Ford Parish Council	Peter Child
Chilbolton Parish Council	Tony Lewis
Clanfield Parish Council	Brian Foster
Copythorne Parish Council	Jackie Rhodes
Crookham Village Parish Council	Simon Ambler
Crookham Village Parish Council	Julia Ambler
Curdrige Parish Council	Eric Bodger
Denmead Parish Council	Paula Langford-Smith
Denmead Parish Council	Kevin Andreoli
Dummer Parish Council	Julian Jones
Durley Parish Council	Steve Delmege
East Woodhay Parish Council	Paul Hurst
Elvetham Heath Parish Council	Marilyn Robson
Elvetham Heath Parish Council	Tracy Hamer
Fleet Town Council	Rochelle Halliday
Four Marks Parish Council	Howard Briggs
Grayshott Parish Council	Nigel Harrison
Headley Parish Council	Anthony Williams
Itchen Valley Parish Council	Patrick Appleby
Lindford Parish Council	Stanley Bennett
Medstead Parish Council	Charles Clark
Medstead Parish Council	Gordon Mitchell
Medstead Parish Council	Michael Smith
New Forest; Lyndhurst Parish Council	Brice Stratford
New Milton Town Council	Graham Flexman
North Waltham Parish Council	George Hayter
Odiham Parish Council	Angela McFarlane
Odiham Parish Council	Andrea Mann
Pamber Parish Council	Simon Greaves
South Wonston Parish Council	June Perrins
South Wonston Parish Council	Ann Peal



Sparsholt Parish Council	Sue Wood
Swanmore Parish Council	Jon Woodman
Sway Parish Council	Peter Dance
Twyford Parish Council	Chris Corcoran
Wickham & Knowle Parish Council	Loraine Rappè
Yateley Town Council	Tony Spencer

OTHER ATTENDEES

Steve Tilbury – Steve Tilbury Consulting

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