

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of CALC's Executive Committee held on Saturday 16th January 2016 at 10.00 am at the Community Fire Station, Penrith.

PRESENT:

Ronnie Auld
Ann Byers
Leith Hallatsch
Jill Hay
Keith Hitchen
David Huxley
Brian Kennish
Bob Mather
Keith Morgan
Rick Petecki
David Peters
Geoff Smith
Margaret Throp

In attendance: Samantha Bagshaw, Chief Officer.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Bales, Leslie Johnson, Craig Nicholson and Stan Simpson.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2016

2. Bob Mather invited nominations for the position of Chair for 2016. Ronnie Auld was nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations it was unanimously **agreed** that Ronnie Auld be elected Chair for 2016.

(Ronnie Auld in the chair)

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda to take Item 6 (Election of Vice Chairman) after Item 2

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2015

3. Rick Petecki was nominated and seconded for the position of Vice-Chair. There being no other nominations it was unanimously **agreed** that Rick Petecki be elected Vice-Chair for 2016.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015/16

4. The Committee noted the membership for 2016/17.

MINUTES

5. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 24th October 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

6. With regard to **paragraph 16**, it was noted that the constitutional changes would be reconsidered in the June Executive committee meeting. With regard to **paragraph 30**, the Chief Officer reported that she had met with the Local Area Managers of the County Council and had a useful introductory meeting, but that they were still developing their plans with regard to devolving more assets and services to parishes.

CALC REPRESENTATION ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL BODIES

7. The Committee received a schedule of bodies to which CALC made appointments and considered whether any changes in representation were appropriate.

8. It was **agreed** that CALC's representation on national and local bodies for 2015/16 be as set out in the schedule appended to these minutes. It was also agreed that Jill Hay would check that the Cumbria Accessibility and Transport Partnership is still active. The Chief Officer will follow up the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust to see if CALC is required to send a representative.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE FROM THE CUMBRIA LEADER'S BOARD

9. The Chairman reported that since being heavily involved in the development of the Cumbria Deal (the bid for greater powers and funding to be devolved from central government to Cumbria) over the summer and early autumn, that the Cumbria Leaders' Board was still awaiting a response on the final document.

10. The Committee heard that any agreement with Government would depend on election of an Executive Mayor for Cumbria who would head up a combined authority. This authority would have specific responsibilities for example economic development, but as yet there is little clarity about the structure of any proposed combined authority. The Chairman **agreed** to keep the Executive informed through the Chief Officer.

NALC'S DEVO LOCAL WHITE PAPER

11. The Committee noted the NALC White Paper on devolution, after some discussion of the local devolution process and after discussing some of the arguments made in the document. Keith Morgan, CALC's representative to NALC, noted some of the discussion about proposed governance arrangements for parish councils and concerns that they may lead to the creation of 'two-tier councillors' and concerns about proposed strengthening of the Code of Conduct to give greater powers to parish councils.

12. The Committee further discussed the role of CALC in offering leadership and guidance through this period of change for parish councils. It was **agreed** that the Chief Officer would highlight innovative practice in terms of parishes delivering devolved services in the monthly newsletter. This could include suggestions on how parishes can generate revenue too, for example a car-parking scheme in Mungrisdale.

RESPONSE TO COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

13. It was **agreed** that the draft response circulated by the Chief Officer be submitted as CALC's response to the County Council's budget consultation.

CALC PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS TO NOVEMBER 2015

14. The Committee noted the statement of payments and receipts for the period ended 30th November, 2014. The Chief Officer said that two outstanding grant payments from Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council were being followed up.

CALC FINANCES 2016/17

15. Following discussion, it was **agreed** that a sub-committee of the Executive committee should be set up to consider strategies for mitigating against any future reductions in grants to CALC moving forward. It was further **agreed** that the sub-committee reports back to the next CALC Executive meeting.

16. The following members were appointed to the group:

Ronnie Auld
Rick Petecki
Keith Hitchen
Margaret Throp

CUMBRIA FLOODS

17. The Committee noted the report from the Chief Officer and discussed how the floods and associated damage has been dealt with in the various districts.

18. The Chairman reported that the Secretary of State announced the creation of the Cumbria Floods Partnership (CFP) in December. The aim is to bring together local partners, national agencies, NGOs and Government to develop a Cumbria Action Plan to help address future flooding issues. CALC will be included in the partnership. The action plan will address long term issues including:

- a) Upstream Mitigation and Catchment Management
- b) Channel Maintenance
- c) Internal Drainage Boards
- d) Strengthening of Flood Defences
- e) Community Resilience

19. It was **agreed** that the Chairman will represent CALC with Brian Kennish acting as deputy. The Chief Officer will also attend, if possible.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

20. The Committee received the reports from the district associations.

REPORTS FROM CALC REPRESENTATIVES

21. The Committee received written reports from the Association's representatives. Rick Petecki also gave a verbal update on Connecting Cumbria. He reported that anyone unlikely to be included in the second phase of super-fast broadband roll out can go onto the Connecting Cumbria website to find information about connecting via satellite.

PROPOSED MEETING DATES

22. It was **agreed**:

(1) That Executive Committee meetings in 2016/17 be held at 10.00am at the Fire and Rescue HQ, Penrith on the following dates

- Saturday 2nd April 2016 (NALC National Council is on 12 April)
- Saturday 25th June (NALC National Council is on 12th July)
- Saturday 22nd October (NALC AGM on 20th October)
- Saturday 14th January 2017 (NALC National Council is on 13 December)

(2) That CALC's 2016 AGM be held at 10.30am on Saturday 12th November 2016

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. Rick Petecki raised the issue of clerks struggling with document retention and storage and whether money under the transparency fund might be made available to support those parishes who need it by offering either shredding facilities or storage facilities. The Chief Officer **agreed** to look at the possibilities.

24. It was **agreed** that all the parish councils in Cumbria be asked their views on the National Grid's proposed route for their high-voltage power line connecting the new nuclear facility at Moorside with the National Grid. The comments will be collated by CALC.

CALC AGM

27. The Committee received for information the minutes of the CALC AGM held on 14th November, 2015.

Chairman