



Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at 10.00am on Saturday 23rd November 2024
County hall, Morpeth. Northumberland NE61 2EF.**

Present:

Mr D Woodard (President in the Chair), Cllr John Potts (Chair of the County Committee), David Nicholson (Honorary Treasurer) and representatives of 8 Member Councils.
Graeme Popay (Chief Officer)
And guest speaker Rob Murfin, Director of Housing and Planning (Chief Planning Officer)
Place and Regeneration

1: Welcome and apologies for absence

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were given from 11 members including Vice President Cllr Mike Wood, who had all planned to attend today but were prevented due to the severe weather warning

Apologies were also received from:

- Kim Guinness Mayor NorthEast Combined Authority
- County Cllr Glen Sanderson
- Dr H Patterson COE NCC
- County Cllr Isabel Hunter
- County Cllr Alan Smith
- County Cllr Liz Dunn
- Cllr Thomas Stewart
- Serle Fraser NorthEast Combined Authority

2: Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM had been previously approved at the County Committee meeting on 25th November 2023

3: Matters arising

None

4: Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Cllr Potts reflected on the past 12 months highlighting the work detailed in the Annual Report of Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC). Cllr Potts thanked everyone for their support in his first year in the Chair of NALC and thanked members for their attendance at the County Committee meetings, Cllr Potts extended that thanks to Northumberland County Council for providing the venue for this AGM and the previous meetings of the County Committee at County Hall free of charge to NALC.

We had seen two County Conferences this year, both were very well attended and improving each time, thanks must go to Iain Hedley from NCC for organising them. He thanked Andy Dean and the officers at CAN for their continued support.

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

5: Finance

5.1 The Accounts for 2023-2024

On the recommendation of the Honorary Treasurer, the Accounts 2023 -2024 (as shown in the Annual Report) were considered and approved. Thanks to 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

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 2.5%

All agreed

The Honorary Treasurer brought to members attention the following items that may have a financial implication:

- The County Website and the Parish Websites it supports is in need of being upgraded in the next financial year – it is hoped that any costs will be covered by the income generated from website subscriptions since conception with future operating and development costs being covered by subscribers.
- Youth Services in Northumberland – concern over the reduction in direct NCC support to youth provision within Parishes/Towns may prompt a piece of work to be undertaken to survey our members views on the subject.

6: Honorary Officers

The following were elected as the Honorary Officers:

President – David Woodard

Vice Presidents – David Francis Mike Wood and Alex Wallace

Treasurer – David Nicholson

Auditor – Peter Basnett

7: Membership of the County Committee

Whilst some representatives had changed due to local changes, there would be no election this year as membership had been agreed for three years at the previous AGM in 2023.

Noted

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 face to face and virtual should be set at the next County Committee, it was noted that an earlier AGM would be preferred in 2025

9: Guest Speaker Rob Murfin Director of Housing and Planning (Chief Planning Officer) Place and Regeneration

Rob gave a very interesting talk on homelessness and addressing the demand for social and sheltered housing in Northumberland. Rob took and answered several questions from the floor. Rob closed by offering the services of his department to attend Parish and Town Councils to talk on Planning matters.

The CO Graeme Popay gave a vote of thanks to Rob for his very informative and interesting talk and invited Andy Dean CEO for Community Action Northumberland to speak.

Andy spoke about Communities CAN which is a 'support hub' for community-led housing, giving support to local groups who want to provide community-led housing. CAN offer peer support, technical support, links with specialist suppliers and advice on best practice.

The CO thanked Andy and closed the meeting