



Northumberland Association
of Local Councils

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at 10.15 am on Saturday 29 September 2018 in
The Sill, Bardon Mill, Northumberland NE47 7AN**

Present:

Mr D Woodard (President in the Chair), Cllr A Wallace (Chair of the County Committee), Ms G Turner (Honorary Treasurer) and representatives of 31 Member Councils.

Stephen Rickitt (Chief Officer)

1: Welcome and apologies for absence

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were given from

- Cllr Malcolm Pringle – Wooler
- Cllr Iain Hedley - Glanton
- Cllr Sylvia Hillan – North Sunderland
- Cllr George Sanger - Meldon
- Cllr Andrew Tebbutt – Morpeth
- Cllr Fred Thurgood – East Chevington
- Cllr Mike Wood - Greenhead
- Cllr Glen Sanderson - Northumberland County Council

2: Minutes of the 2017 AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the President.

3: Matters arising, if any

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4: Annual Report 2017-18

4.1 Cllr Wallace introduced the report which had been previously circulated. In doing so, he passed on his congratulations to Cllr Gregah Roughead – Berwick upon Tweed – who was shortlisted for the national Young Councillor of the Year. The meeting concurred in passing on their hopes for his success when the awards are announced.

4.2 He was pleased to invite acceptance and adoption of the Annual Report which was agreed.

5: Finance

5.1 Ms Turner presented the accounts for 2017/2018 which were received and adopted by the Meeting.

5.2 The Honorary Treasurer then proposed that the annual subscriptions in 2018/2019 be increased by 2.00% as the national NALC were to increase their element by this amount. This was agreed by the Meeting.

6. Appointment of Honorary Officers [Current Holders shown]:

President – David Woodard

The re-election of Mr Woodard was agreed.

Vice Presidents – Ray Butler, David Francis and Alex Wallace, and David Francis

The re-election of Cllrs Francis and Wallace and Mr Butler were agreed.

Treasurer – Gillian Turner

The re-election of Ms Turner was agreed.

Auditor – Peter Basnett

The re-election of Mr Basnett was agreed.

7. Appointment of County Committee Members

The following were re-elected as shown in the table below

Representative Area	Name	Year due to stand-down or be re-elected
Ashington	Stephen Fenwick	2021
Berwick and Islandshire	Gregah Roughead	2021
Blyth	John Potts	2021
Choppington	Amanda Barrell	2021
East Tynedale	Monica Anderton	2021
Haltwhistle and West Tyne	Mike Wood	2021
Hexham & Hexhamshire	Tom Gillanders	2021
Newbiggin	Malcolm Peden	2021
Ponteland & Rural West (South)	Alan Varley	2021
Prudhoe	Gerry Price	2021
Seahouses & Belford	Sylvia Hillan	2021

8. The Association's Constitution

The Chief Officer introduced this item at the request of the President and advised that the proposals had been circulated amongst Member Councils. The one slight area of disagreement had been the amendment to clause 1 (the area covered by the Association). After a short discussion, it was agreed to adopt the phrase *historical county of Northumberland, which includes Newcastle and North Tyneside* but to keep this under review in case the new Mayoral Authority used a shorter form. With that the meeting agreed the amendments. A copy of the revised constitution is attached to the signed minutes.

9. Any other urgent business

None

10. Presentation and Discussion - The Borderland Growth Initiative

10.1 The President invited the Chief Officer to open the discussion. In doing so the meeting was informed that the County Council were unable to provide a speaker due to restrictions imposed by HM Treasury ahead of the national Budget. Whilst disappointing, it was felt such a stance was positive as indicating a probable announcement of support by Government.

10.2 In a wide-ranging discussion; the following points were amongst those made

- Although indications were for large capital projects at this stage, Members present saw this as leading to smaller individual projects as part of a themed larger project in future
- The very clear need for local communities to be involved from the outset, reminding upper tier councils on either side of the border of the role which local councils have in representing their communities
- The real opportunity to enhance tourism, a key sector for both sides of the border.
- The need for the Association to provide briefings for Member Councils to enable them to lobby their MPs and Members of upper tier councils
- The recent resolution agreed without dissent by the County Council seeking the appointment of a minister to drive the initiative forward
- The opportunity for Northumberland being involved in both this initiative and the North of Tyne Authority, but also a concern about the capacity of the County Council to resource the work needed to derive maximum benefit
- The opportunities to make closer links with comparable communities in southern Scotland

Draft – subject to ratification by the next AGM

- The concern that artificial finance rules would inhibit cross-border initiatives and the need to consider arrangements in Northern Ireland and Wales
- The need to consider the establishment of a formal authority to cut through such obstructions

There being no further business the President closed the meeting.

Confirmed as a true record
and signed by the President.....

Date.....

DRAFT