

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

**Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting**

**Held on 20 July 2024 at Highnam Community Centre, commencing at 10.30am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Officers and Executive**

Rt. Revd. Christopher Hill President

Cllr Steve Ponting Chair, Executive Committee

Cllr Richard Page Vice Chair, Executive Committee

Cllr Ray Cotton Executive Committee

Cllr Steve Wilcox Executive Committee

Cllr Alan Porter Executive Committee

Jacquie Webster Executive Committee

Richard Crighton Executive Committee

Jim Harmsworth Cowles Executive Committee

Cllr Liz Hodges Executive Committee

**Councils represented**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Churchdown PC |  | | Bourton on the Water |  | | Wotton under Edge |  | | Hinton |  | | Brimcombe and Thrupp |  | | Brimcombe and Thrupp |  | | Highnam |  | | Bishops Cleeve |  | | Blockley |  | | Minchinhampton |  | | Winchcombe |  | | Dymock |  | | Gretton PC |  | | Quedgeley TC |  | | Cainscross |  | | Blockley PC |  | | Tetbury TC |  | | Cam |  | | Bourton on the Water |  | | Wotton under Edge |  | | Dymock |  | | Awre PC |  | | Newland PC |  | | Norton PC |  | | Taynton |  | | Hucclecote |  | | Rodborough PC |  | | Tibberton |  | | Tetbury |  | | Ruardean PC |  | | Highnam |  | | Shurdington |  | | Staunton PC |  | | Longney & Epney |  | |
| Upper Rissington |
|  |

Welcome to Members by the President, the Rt. Rev. Christopher Hill

The President introduced the guest speaker

**Guest Speaker:** Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive National Association of Local

Councils (NALC) on the role of national association and its relationship with county

Associations.

Jonathan Owen provided a welcome presentation on behalf of NALC.

He stated that these were challenging times for Local Councils as more demands are put upon them..

Provided an overview of the services and advocacy available to Councils and Clerks

Questions:

* Biodiversity: No Legal requirement to meet this requirement. Some suggestions made to include this duty in Local Government
* Relationship with Local Government Association: request for a combined role with NALC and allow smaller Councils access to LGA.
* Comment regarding lack of engagement with District Council.

JO encouraged attendees and District Councils to work together.

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from the following Town and Parish Councils:

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| Arlingham PC |
| Barrington PC |
| Bledington PC |
|  |
| Bourton on the Hill PC |
| Broadwell PC |
| Bromsberrow PC |
| Chaceley PC |
| Coaley PC |
| Coleford TC |
| Donnington PM |
| Ebrington PC |
| Evenlode PC |
| Fretherne w Saul PC |
| Haresfield PC |
| Isaac Bamfield (Berkeley TC) |
| Lydney TC |
| Maugersbury PC |
| Mickleton PC TC |
| Moreton in Marsh |
| North Nibley PC |
| Nympsfield PC |
| Rudford and Highleadon |
| Ruspidge & Soudley PC |
| Slimbridge PC |
| St Braivels PC |
| Stanway PC |
| Willersey PC |
| Woodmancote PC |
| Woolaston PC |
| Fairford TC |
| Leonard Stanley PC |

1. **To approve the minutes of the eighty-sixth Annual General Meeting held on**

**Saturday, 22nd July 2023**

The minutesof the eighty-sixth Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 22nd July 2023were **p**roposed by Steve Ponting and seconded by Liz were approved with 2 abstentions.

1. **Election of Senior Officer**

Rev. Chris Hill proposed and approved as President

The president noted Terry Parker’s Honorary Life Presidency ice president:

1. **To note the matters arising from the following Resolutions passed at the AGM**

**on 22nd July 2023**

Hunts Grove PC and, in particular, Richard Paige were acknowledged and thanked for work and progress and this item.

1. **To adopt the ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENT**, copy attached

The Chairman thanked GAPTC staff and highlighted the following:

* Monday morning message
* Council engagement
* stablishing of Town and Parish Council hubs
* GAPTC was a Finalist at The Star Council Awards (National Category).

The motion to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statement was passed, with three abstentions.

1. **To debate the following PROPOSITIONS**:

Councils are reminded that the proposer must be a member of the relevant council and that a seconder from another council is present. Proposers are reminded that they should take no more than 4 minutes to make their proposition. Seconders, should they wish to speak, are reminded to be equally brief, 2 minutes.

* **Quedgeley Town Council:**

Motion: That GAPTC request NALC to pursue with HMG. Where a Council clearly demonstrates ongoing and open communication with the public and meets the criteria as below, then the concept of an annual Assembly has now become dated, and the council should be given discretionary powers to forgo an APA.

It was explained that this was to change the Annual Assembly Law, not scrap it.

This motion was seconded by Chipping Camden Town Council.

Two comments raised concern over how to engage with residents

One against this motion.

**Motion Failed**: Two in favour, 2 abstentions

* **Chipping Camden Town Council:**

**Motion One:** In many of our towns and villages, there has been development by ‘creep’ e.g. permission is granted for a small group of 3-5 dwellings. Followed within a year an adjacent 3-5 dwellings and then a further 3-5 dwellings. All too soon what had been a small development which could have enhanced the area now becomes intense (and to many) an overdeveloped area. Therefore, Chipping Campden Town Council requests that GAPTC press HMG through NALC to amend the planning regulations to ensure that where a small development of under (5) dwellings is made, there can be no further development adjacent to that site for at least 10 years. This is proposed to avoid creeping and often insensitive over-development in our rural areas.

Comment asking for rewording of the Motion as it was unclear if it was just relating to landowner of a particular piece of land.

Motion One **Failed**: 4 in favour, no abstentions

**Motion Two:** Where a parish/town council has noted that verges have been erroneously or deliberately planted by the householder to enhance the size of their plot or to increase road splay, then the parish or town Council will have the right to demand that the Highways authority take action to remedy. Should the Highways authority fail to act or resolve the situation within 6 months then the Parish/Town Council will be able to negotiate with the occupier of the land to remove the obstruction and where necessary the Highways authority should remain liable for any charges incurred.

The motion was seconded by Rodborough parish Council

Several Comments reminding proposer of The Highways Act and the responsibility of the Highways department (GCC)

Motion two **Withdrawn**.

* Wotten Under Edge Town Council:

Motiion to enable Parish and Town Councils to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at a

convenient time more suitable for the electorate rather than being restricted to after

6pm when many people are unavailable.

**Seconded by Quedgeley**

Motion explained that a change of time to allow Saturday would be more accessible

to families and those who worked.

**Motion passed**

* Bourton-on the Water Parish Council:

**Motion One:** At this 2024 AGM of GAPTC we RESOLVE that NALC should now enhance its policy to encompass the CMA’s conclusion and to lobby the new government.

Seconded by

**Motion passed:** with one against, one abstention.

**Motion Two:** We are seeking NALC to research to allow Parish and Town Council greater control and accountability for flooding and infrastructure**.** Water Companies to be held responsible for new developments to allow more control for Parish and Town Council to prevent flooding to ensure Water Companies maintain responsibility.

Seconded by Maismore Parish Council

Suggestion that the Executive Committee work on this Motion prior to taking it to NALC. Several amendments were made to the Motion,

7 in favour, 6 against, 5 abstentions: **Amendments and** **Motion passed**

**7: To discuss the level of subscription for 2025/26, as required by Para 3b of the Constitution, for the Executive Committee to take into consideration when it sets the fee level at its November meeting.**

Item deferred. The options regarding the level will be discussed at the EC’s November meeting and will be communicated to all members thereafter.

1. **Constitutional amendments**:

* Executive members elected in 2023 will serve until 2027.

Question on election cycle – clarified that was relating to those elections held in 2024. Passed with one abstention.

1. **To receive any other items of urgent business as notified to the President prior to the commencement of the meeting and at the discretion of the Chairman Any other business:**

None received.

1. **Sponsors Presentations:**

Presentation One: CloudyIT

Presentation Two: Utility Aid

Presentation Three: Blachere Illuminations

Presentation Four**:** Streetscape

Meeting closed 12.40pm. The GAPTC Chairman thanked Sponsors and participants for attending.